

SP-C4 Cultural Resources Interpretive Evaluation*October 25, 2002***1.0 Introduction/Background**

Public policies and guidelines relative to cultural resources management emphasize the value of providing appropriate information to interested local parties, and the usefulness of public education as a means of increasing archaeological site protection. Given the heavy recreational use within the Study Area and the strong interest from the local public in maintaining local archaeological collections and providing interpretive displays of the cultural heritage values of the Study Area, it is expected that several interpretive opportunities exist to increase the awareness of these resource values and to facilitate long-term protection of cultural resources.

2.0 Study Objectives

The objectives of this study are to evaluate the need and opportunities for making appropriate cultural resources data readily available to public users in and around the Study Area, and to assess the potential of establishing local facilities to maximize the public benefits of cultural heritage values. The public interpretation/education elements of this study will be conducted in coordination with the efforts of the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group, and will be used to assist in the development of the Cultural Resources Management Plan (see Study #3—Cultural Resources Management).

3.0 Relationship to Relicensing/Need for Study

The Federal Power Act of 1920 requires that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) consider the effects of their actions on historical and archaeological resources. In addition, FERC must comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and other federal laws prior to issuing a new hydroelectric license for the Study Area. When making certain discretionary decisions, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and other applicable state laws. These laws and associated regulations require the consideration of potential effects on and impacts to cultural resources that may be listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), or the California Register of Historical Places (California Register), and the assessment of methods needed to avoid, reduce, or otherwise resolve potential adverse effects.

This study addresses Issues Statement CR4—provide for the interpretation of cultural resources and make available cultural resources data relative to the Study Area. Specific Issues to be addressed include: CRE 4, 7, 8, 11, 14, 16-20, 23, 27, 29, 30, 37, 38, 43, 44, and 47.

4.0 Study Area

The Study Area includes Lake Oroville, the lands and waters within the FERC project boundary, and adjacent lands, facilities, and areas with a clear project nexus. Opportunities for increasing public awareness of cultural resources, including potential interpretive displays and curation facilities, will be assessed both within the Study Area and at other appropriate locations in the vicinity that may be more conducive to interpretive displays/opportunities.

5.0 General Approach

Detailed Methodology and Analysis Procedures

The evaluation of interpretive and educational needs and opportunities will be based on the results of the cultural resources inventory, evaluation, and management efforts (see Study #1—Cultural Resources Inventory; Study #2—Cultural Resources Evaluation; and Study #3—Cultural Resources Management) and will be coordinated with recreational opportunities identified by the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group.

DWR will work with FERC, other agencies (e.g., California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), United States Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)), local Native American individuals and groups, and other interested parties to develop methods to assess which resources are most conducive to public interpretation. DWR will also consider appropriate locations for various interpretive facilities and/or curation facilities (e.g., informational kiosks, interpretive trails, informational signs, the existing visitor center, and/or a new cultural center or “Heritage Village”) that can be shared by all local tribes and ideally by other local organizations with interests in cultural resource issues (e.g., local schools, Butte County Historical Society, etc.). Opportunities to return previously collected archaeological materials will also be assessed during this study, as will potential funding mechanisms.

6.0 Products/Deliverables

Results

This section to be developed.

Products/Deliverables

The following product will be developed for this study:

- Interpretive Evaluation Report

The report will address the needs for public interpretation/education and curation of local archaeological collections, methods to accomplish these objectives, and the value and potential locations for interpretive displays and a visitor center/curation facility.

The report will consider cultural resources from the prehistoric and historic past (e.g., pioneering, ranching, mining, logging), as well as means to further enlighten the public on traditional practices within the Study Area.

7.0 Coordination and Implementation Strategy

It is anticipated that information gathered by the Land Use and Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group (e.g., recreation demand studies, recreation user surveys, plans for future recreational developments, etc.) will be helpful to this study. The results of this study will be coordinated with Study #3.

The Interpretive Evaluation Report will be developed in close coordination with local tribes and cultural organizations, land management agencies, other knowledgeable individuals and groups, FERC, and the SHPO. The evaluation will be prepared and handled in full recognition of the confidential nature of certain sensitive cultural resources data. Confidential resource information will not be distributed to the public.

Issues, Concerns, Comments Tracking and/or Compliance Requirements

This Study Plan was developed to address Issue Statement CR4—provide for the interpretation of cultural resources and make available cultural resources data relative to the Study Area. Issue Statement CR4 encompasses Issues: CRE 4, 7, 8, 11, 14, 16-20, 23, 27, 29, 30, 37, 38, 43, 44, and 47.

Project activities must comply with Section 106 of the NHPA and other federal laws. When making certain discretionary decisions, DWR must comply with CEQA and other applicable state laws.

8.0 Study Schedule

Data collection: March 2004 through September 2004.

Data analysis and report writing: March through September 2004.

Draft Interpretive Evaluation Report due: September 2004.